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Long Island FISHERMAN

FEBRUARY 20th, 1975, ISSUE No. 6

030272-
E.W. HOCKER
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HOW TO TIE HOOK SNELLS

Fishing Logs Help

CAN A POPPER REALLY "TALK"?

EATING FISH

WHAT'S IN A FISHERMAN?

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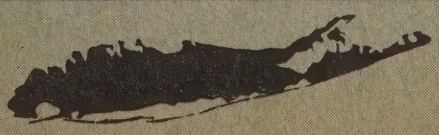
See page 16.

GARCIA ROYAL BONNYL MONO

The Other End of Long Island

Part IV: Fish, Tackle, Bait



Chum Lines

200 MILE LIMIT

I am writing this letter to add my indignation at the presence of Soviet and Italian vessels in our immediate coastal waters pursuing their endeavors while our politicians go about their merry way, jousting with each other over such trivia as "Watergate," while completely and stupidly ignoring the depletion of our coastal resources by foreign governments.

It is true that our Coast Guard Vessels are constantly on patrol, that all illegal intrusions of our 12-mile fishing limits are dealt with according to the regulations, but this is not sufficient. The fishing limit of the USA urgently requires extension to 200 miles or better, and our Congressmen, especially those who are non-fishermen, need to be in some way made fervently cognizant of these facts.

Need I mention, that if foreign vessels can peacefully sit on our doorstep to fish unchallenged, they could be—and most likely—engaged in some sort of sophisticated surveillance activities that would be detrimental to our National Security.

I hope that my letter, if published, will make someone, somewhere, angry enough to do something about this unbearable situation. Lets not wait until they sail up the Potomac River. I am but one voice, but I am sure that there are many other voices like mine, that deplore these happenings and wish that they be terminated in the near future. **Howard C. Fuller, Amityville.**

I am submitting this drawing for your magazine in the hope's that the small group (I hope) of fisherman who haven't appealed for passage of the 200 mile limit, will see it and get the general picture of what is most likely to happen if it's not passed.

To be on a party boat and see Jones Beach on one side and on the other side a fleet of foreign trawlers is disgusting.

If you could give me any additional information on what an average fisherman can do. I would greatly appreciate it. **Joe Gianturco, Brooklyn**

UNUSUAL SEAHORSE

In the L.I. Fisherman, January 5th 1975, Issue #1, there was mention of Unusual Catches for 1974. The Stallion Seahorse was of particular interest.

While walking along Jones Beach Fishing Pier in mid-November with my two boys, ages 3 and 4. We were surprised to see a seahorse, equally as large as the one in *The Fisherman* if not slightly larger. A fisherman who had badly tangled his line in some kelp pulled in a large bunch of kelp and seaweed. He cut his line free and gave the mass to the children to examine. Along with a few small crabs, a baby sea robin and a mussel we found the seahorse. We examined it with interest and returned it to the water, very much alive. I personally have never seen a seahorse so large, but as the symbol of Jones Beach is a seahorse I assumed it was only unusual to me. The children are most interested and were very excited to the see the seahorse in *The Fisherman any* information would be greatly appreciate. **Mrs. John Willets, Garden City**

Sea horses are not uncommon in Long Island waters, but we usually do not see them since their coloration and gentle movements blend so effectively with the sea weeds that they attach to.

There are a number of other exotic animals that are common in Long Island waters but are not generally noticed by fishermen. These animals include sea anemones, pipe fish, a variety of sponges, and occasional visits from unusual fishes such as tarpon, jack crevalle, and wahoo.

Divers report seeing these exotic animals frequently because they deliberately enter their realm and specifically look for the creatures. However, since the beach walker, shell collector, and fisherman are on top of the water, much of the world beneath the surface is hidden.

NEW YORK STATE FISHING CONTEST

Subject: N.Y. State 1975 Saltwater Fishing Contest

Ref: L.I.F. Issue No. 50 dated December 26, 1974, Page 14

As a member of a local fishing club and avid fisherman, I and other club members are interested in further details concerning the subject contest.

Would you please supply or publish a listing of local locations where details, rules and entry forms can be obtained. **Walter G. Stammel, President, Atlantis Anglers Assn. Inc.**

We have had many requests about this contest. The information you require is supposed to be available from the DEC, and we have received no further releases from them to indicate when or where this will happen. For all those who want the details, I suggest you contact Mr. Lawrence A. Kelly, Community Relations, NYS Dept. Of Environmental Conservation, SUNY, Building #40, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790 (516-751-7900). G.V.

News Releases

ENVIRONMENTAL TEACH-IN IN ALBANY

Some 250 high school students from throughout New York, including several from Suffolk County, will participate in a day-long "Environmental Teach-In" being sponsored by the State Senate under the direction of Senator Bernard C. Smith of Northport at the Capital in Albany in April.

The students will be chosen from among hundreds of high schoolers who have exhibited qualities of leadership and interest in environmental affairs and have been recommended by local school authorities. THe students will meet with leading legislators, governmental officials and experts in the environmental field and will conduct a legislative session to debate and vote on major issues facing the state.

The Teach-In will be conducted Friday, April 25 and will be part of National Environmental Awareness Week 1975. It is being sponsored with the cooperation and support of Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson and marks the fourth year that such a program has been directed by Senator Smith.

Senator Smith, who is chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Conservation, Recreation and the Environment and is the former chairman of the state's Temporary Commission on Youth Education in Conservation, noted the success of the Teach-In since its inception in 1970. The programs have been strongly supported by public and private organizations and in the past have been featured by a major address by the Governor.

"This is a valuable means through which participating students can realize the significance of familiarity with emerging environmental concerns, considerations and constraints," according to Senator Smith. "These boys and girls will be able to return to their schools to share their experiences, thereby ensuring a continuing awareness among our young people of the many environmental problems and the manner in which government is seeking to solve these problems."

"In the five years since the celebration of the first Earth Day in 1970, changes in the economy, proposed reductions in state spending and fossil fuel shortages have reemphasized the need for a continuing deelopment of responsible environmental management programs," Senator Smith said. "It is my hope that the Teach-In will engender a

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, Number 6 February 20th, 1975

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ABOUT THE COVER: The mate puts the gaff to a small cod, which are still going strong as the first flounder reports start coming in. See the fishing reports on page 17. Photo by Stu Miller.

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spirit of positive action and involvement in our young people throughout the state, a quality so much in need during these unsure times."

OUTFALL PIPE REPAIRS

A spokesman for the Nassau County Department of Public Works has placed the Spring of 1975 as the new target date for the completion of repairs to the break in the bay section of the Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant's outfall pipe. The four hundred feet of pipe that had to be replaced by the contractor are expected to be in place by that time. The cause of the break remains a mystery.

The Department's spokesman also stated that the ocean segment of the pipe has been completely restored along its entire length. No explanation could be made at this time for the presence of air bubbles which have been observed along the length of the pipe. The bubbles have been seen and traced on sonar by fishing boat captains in the area. **Courtesy of Marine Environmental Council of Long Island.**

CONNECTICUT FISHING EXPO

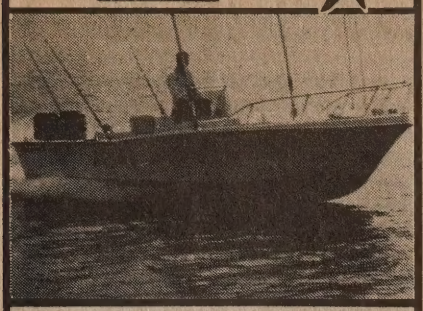
In an attempt to put together a fishing-oriented show that would appeal to the area's fresh and salt water anglers, Fishing Shows Inc. will present The Southern New England Fishing Show at the Westbrook Armory in Westbrook, Conn. on March 14-16.

The three day event, the first of its kind in the area, will include exhibits by tackle manufacturers, tackle dealers, boat dealers, marinas, fishing clubs, and conservation organizations. Among these exhibitors will be Atom Plugs, whose owner, Bob Pond, will be running a fishing clinic; The American Littoral Society, with the hows and whys of fish tagging; Seacoast Products inc, the commercial menhaden fishermen from New Jersey; and the Hartford Surf Fishing Club, the current top ranking saltwater club in the state.

In all, some two dozen booths will cover almost all aspects of fishing in the Southern New England area, as well as displaying both what's new and old in fishing tackle. A small stage and demonstration pool will provide the setting for numerous demonstrations, talks, and questions from the audience.

Admissions is 1.50 for adults and $.75 for children under 12. Hours will be: Friday the 14th, 5:30 to 11 PM; Saturday the 15th, 10 AM to 11 PM; and Sunday the 16th 11 AM to 5 PM. The Westbrook Armory is just a short distance from exit 65 on I-95 in Westbrook.

MAKO



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EDITORIAL

A Nassau-Suffolk lawsuit to block offshore oil drilling in the Atlantic Ocean was filed February 10, 1975. Basically, the suit attacks the possibility of offshore drilling on the grounds that there is a conflict of interest. The suit argues that Secretary of the Interior, Rogers B. Morton will have a conflict as "trustee" of the Atlantic's Outer Continental Shelf while his department is receiving royalties for leasing lands to the oil companies.

Although, this may be one of only a few possible legal ways to block the drilling, The Long Island Fisherman is against offshore oil drilling for more important reasons.

First, we know very little about surface and subsurface currents in our coastal oceans. What little we do know seems to point toward a pattern of currents which could thrust oil from leaking offshore rigs down the Sound and against the valuable beaches of Connecticut and Long Island.

Not only the beaches would be affected. Our precious wetlands would be covered with the heavy and lethal crude oil. It is doubtful whether the marsh areas could survive the effects. Since it is clearly established from recent research that there can be no coastal fisheries without productive wetlands the effects of a spill would touch many facets of Long Island life.

Although Long Island communities are economically diverse, many industries and jobs depend upon both the commercial and a recreational value of Long Island's beaches, finfish, and shellfish.

Perhaps then, Long Island is somewhat unique. That is, although our economy is complex and our citizens sophisticated, much of what makes the Island "tick" and many of the qualities of the place that make it an attractive place to live, revolve around our coastal recreational resources. If these were destroyed much more than jobs would be at stake.

We are also against offshore oil drilling for ecological reasons. We cannot see any viable reasons for jeopardizing what remains of a still productive ecology.

Third, we are distressed by the possible damage from rigs, oil and its transportation to our coastal scenery. Aesthetics are important in an age when factory smoke stacks, automobiles, garbage dumps, soot, and housing tracks and apartment complexes have become a scar on a once beautiful Long Island face.

We realize that our opposition may not sit well in an age of energy shortages, or more precisely alleged energy shortages. We applaud the efforts of County Executives Klein and Caso in their fight to prevent the drilling and we pledge them our support toward that end.

Yet, we recognize that drilling will someday be necessary. Thus we argue the "means" by which the "ends" of energy availability will be made. Let the research, technology, planning, and facts preceed the decision—for once! If we must drill then let us design and install proper safeguards to prevent or trap possible spills. Let us determine the real possibility of movements of the earth's crust which might liberate millions of gallons of oil in spite of safeguards! Let us learn more about currents and the effects of drilling on the marine life that makes its home on the shelf—before we drill!

We the consumers must be willing to pay for the added costs to the price of a gallon of gas that would result from a careful sensible approach to drilling? How much do we value our fishing, our beaches, our beautiful Long Island which is, and always has been, inexorable linked to the seas? W.A.M.

Surf Side

with Doc Muller

WHAT'S IN A FISHERMAN?

I often hear surfmen discussing each other's qualitites. One hears phrases like: "He's a good fisherman," or "He catches a lot of fish," or "He's on the beach a lot," or simply, "He's OK!"

I've always been disturbed by the subjectiveness of the evaluation. Some people are judges prematurely, either positively or negatively. The importance of the entire question can probably be compared with the need to know the weight of a flea, but since so many guys—both on and off the beach—spend so much time yapping about it, and since it's winter anyway, let's push it around a little.

It's probably easier to discuss and describe what goes to make a bad fisherman than what makes a good one. It's extremely difficult to pinpoint positive qualities.

A good fisherman isn't necessarily a guy with a fancy or well-outfitted buggy, although many good surfmen have great buggies!

A good fisherman doesn't necessarily carry a chest of homemade plugs, although the best fisherman do make the best lures. The test of his quality is not how shiny the plugs are, but rather how well they catch fish.

A good fisherman, likewise, cannot be identified because he lives on the beach, even if you find him at the right places such as Montauk, Cedar Beach, or Cape Cod.

A surfman isn't necessarily a good fishermen because his surfstick has been taped together. In fact, haste and unskilled hands may be the reason for the tape job and quality may suffer a back seat.

Last, but not least among the negatives, involves the number of fish a guy kills. A lot of very good surfmen release most or all of the fish they catch, and even the best of them have good and bad days, weeks, and seasons.

The confusion results because the above items are characteristics of both good and bad fishermen. Thus, the judgment of a fellow beach rover should be based on other values if it is to be made at all. Let's take each of these items one at a time; perhaps my concept will become clear through example.

I'm always amazed at the number of buggies at Montauk, especially when the weather is mild. These vehicles are beautifully equipped, too, and one can watch them glide up and down the beach for most of the night and day. At other times, during the dark hours, they are parked shoulder to shoulder with interior lights blazing away and their occupants drinking and playing cards. Many of these people don't fish. They'll throw a popper a few times at dusk and dawn or when the fish hit the beach so thick that you don't need a hook and line to catch them.

The same group seems to be very big on plug boxes, too. These huge, beautifully fashioned wooden chests hold many dozen of plugs and the fishermen that own them are overeager to show each and every passing surfmen his gleaming, perfectly painted plugs. What bothers me is that very often these plugs are as shiny as a new quarter, with narry a salt crystal or a spot of rust. Listen, I consider myself a pretty neat and carefull guy, but I don't own very many plugs that haven't been scarred by fish and foam, or that don't hang a least one slightly corroded hook. In short, if the plugs are used they must show at least a little of the results of wear and tear as well as the corrosive effects of oxidation!

A lot of guys seem to work at making themselves very visible. When it's still daylight they're on the beach with the rod poised on their shoulders. If the fish don't show, they disappear at darkness and can later be found in some local pub or in front of the T.V. set.

The good fishermen that I know are also hard working fishermen. They don't wait until the fish commit suicide, or rely on others to find the fish for them! No wonder, then, that it's these guys up to their armpits in the briny that find and catch the fish consistently.

Some guys spend a lot of time showing off their rods, too. Among some groups a taped wand is a status symbol. There are some legitimate reasons for taping a stick together, but most guys do it either because they are lazy, or because they lack the digital dexterity to wind a guide properly; they are generally unwilling to be taught or to teach themselves. In any event, the taped rod doesn't catch any more or fewer fish then a threaded stick.

Sheer numbers of fish don't mean a great deal, either. I know of couple of guys who catch fish as a result of the hard work of others. Some fishermen have almost unlimited time. They hang around good beaches day after day, waiting for the blitz and, of course, sooner or later it happens. Usually these surfmen use tackle that overpowers the fish, and they can be seen planing the fish into the wash—either for the market or for club points.

Some fishermen just step it in! They go to a stretch of beach for no particular reason, and bingo! There are the fish! Meanwhile, the guys with the know-how may have gone elsewhere because conditions dictated another choice. They may come home with empty stringers.

Before I decide whether or not a guy is a good fisherman I want to see what he does with a fish on. Does he control the fish or does the fish control him? I also want to see how a guy works a piece of beach. Can he coax a fish or two to rise to his artificial when they aren't feeding?

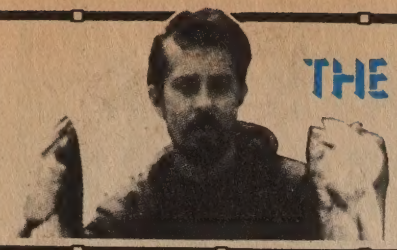
I want to see how he handles his equipment, too. I know a guy who points the tip of the rod at every big fish he hangs. He doesn't let the rod and reel do the job they were intended to do. In spite of the fact that he loses many fish, he still argues that it's the only way to handle them.

I like to get a feel for the judgment of the guy who is standing next to me. Where and when he fishes as well as his lure selection. Does he use a leader? When? Why? How?

What kind of hooks dangle from his plugs? Does he know his limitations and those of the tackle he uses in battle? Does he endanger himself and those around him?

How does he gaff a fish? This fall I fished a river bank and a couple of good bass were taken by some of the regulars. Instead of gaffing the fish they led them over a bar into a quiet shallow pool, pulld them about two hundred feet into these shallows, and then tried to slide them onto the beach. They lost half the fish they attempted landing this way. Okay. If the fisherman has little intention of keeping the fish, he can afford the risk. But these guys were mad each time a fish got free. The fish could

(Continued on page 21.)



THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

HOOKS-Part II
How To Tie Snells

A **snell** is a length of heavy monofilament that is used to attach a hook to the leader. Their lengths vary greatly, depending upon the species sought and the method being used. Generally, a short, stiff snell is used for fish that hug the bottom while feeding, such as flounder and kingfish. Longer snells are used for fish that feed above the bottom, like striped bass and weakfish. A long, light snell will allow the bait to move naturally in the current at a distance off the bottom where a foraging fish will spot it and, hopefully, grab it!

The materials you need to snell your own hooks are a quantity of leader material, a pair of pliers and the hooks themselves. Hooks are cheapest when purchased in boxes of 100, one size per box, and may be purchased at most of the local tackle shops. Leader material comes in ten yard coils and pre-cut lengths. Your best bet is to use 42 inch pre-cut lengths, which are long enough to tie snells up to 36 inches long and can be cut down to shorter lengths. Coils are often awkward to work with. Thirty-pound test will be sufficient for most of the hookes you will snell.

We'll learn how to snell hooks in three ways of varying difficulty. The best snell is shown in figure 1, and is the most difficult to tie. Grasp the bend of the hook between the thumb and index finger of your left hand, holding the point down and the eye pointing to the right. Pass the end of the leader material through the eye twice so that you end up with a one-inch loop and about three inches of leader material coming through the eye. (See step A in figure one.)

Move the thumb and index finger up on the shank of the hook and hold the loop flat alongside the shank. Grasp the 3 inch piece of leader with your right hand and, starting at the eye and working towards the bend, begin wrapping it snugly along the shank of the hook, covering the loop as you wrap. (See step B in figure one.) After you have made six complete turns, pass the end of the leader through the loop as shown in step C.

Step D is the most important step, as it is with most knots—pulling the knot taut. If you pull too quickly or in jerky movements, the snell will not tighten correctly and will more than likely come undone when the pressure of a struggling fish is applied to it. Holding the wrappings snugly against the shank, **slowly** pull the main leader until the loop tightens up and is snug with the end turn as shown in step D in figure one.

The snell will snug-up more securely if you lubricate the untightened knot with saliva, which acts as a lubricant. Clip off the excess line with a nail clipper, leaving about an eighth of an inch for slippage.

When you first try snelling your own hooks, you'll find yourself all-thumbs and not enough hands. This awkward stage will quickly pass with a little practice, so don't get aggravated and give up too quickly. Whatever you do, however, **don't** give in to the temptation of using your mouth as a third hand for reasons that will become painfully obvious the first time you slip and make a mistake.

FIGURE 1.

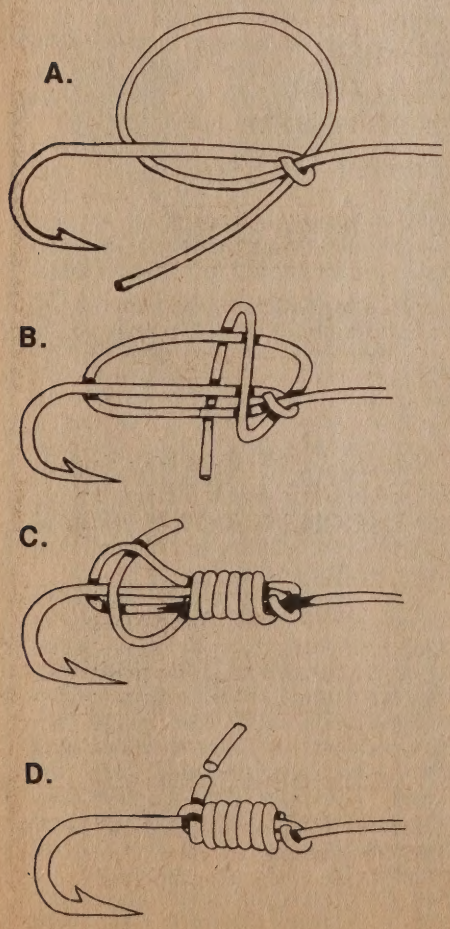
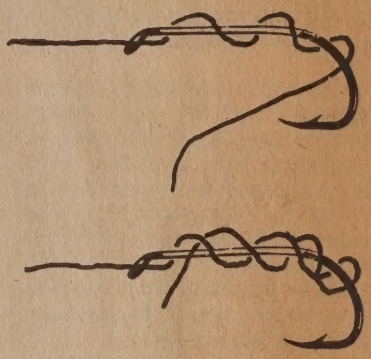


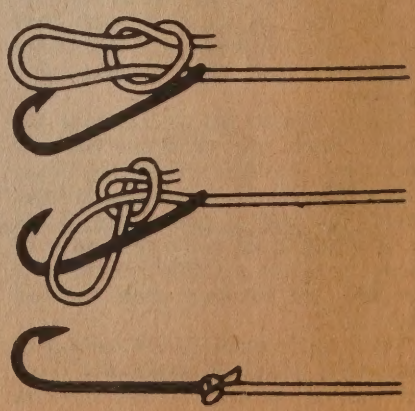
FIGURE 2.



The second method of snelling a hook is shown in figure 2 and is much simplier to tie. Although it may not be as strong as the first snell, I've never had one fail; I use it on almost all of my hooks. L.I.F. publisher Rich Reina showed it to me about a year ago, and it looked so easy that at first I thought it was a trick.

Hold the hook in your left hand at the eye after passing the end of the leader through it. Grasp the leader with your right hand and make three wide wraps down the shank towards the bend of the hook as shown in step A. Then reverse the direction and make two wraps going back up the shank toward the eye, over-lapping the first three turns as shown in step

FIGURE 3.



B. Then pass the end of the line between the shank and the last turn of line near the eye. Slowly pull taut, and the snell is complete.

The third method used for snelling hooks is also quite simple, as shown in figure 3, but is not quite as reliable as the first two. Pass the end of the leader through the eye and tie the knot as shown in the diagram, but don't pull it taut. Pass the point of the hook through the loop in the knot. Then slowly pull on the leader until the knot tightens up against the shank. Clip off the excess line.

Regardless of which snell you choose to tie, the opposite end of the snell must have a means for being attached to the main leader. The most popular method is to tie a simple end loop as shown in figure 4. If you are going to attach the snelled hook directly to a connecting link such as a barrel or 3-way swivel, use an Improved Clinch knot as shown in figure 5.

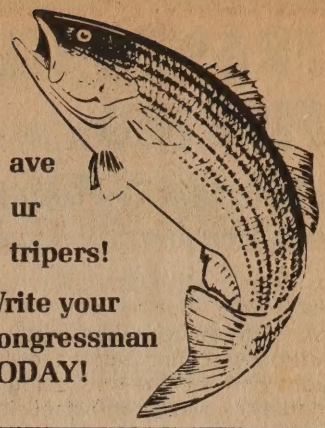


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FIGURE 4.

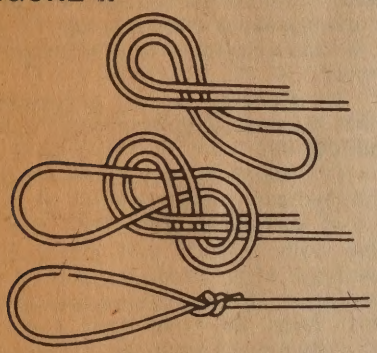
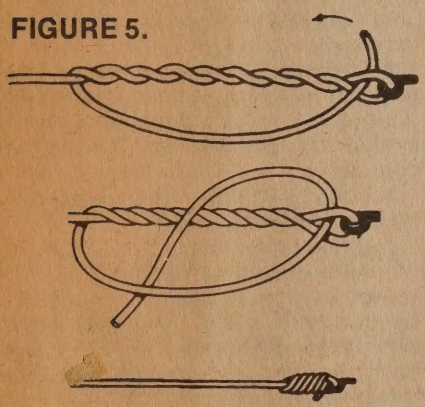


FIGURE 5.



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Guest speaker at this year's Annual Meeting will be Dr. William A. Muller, Associate Editor of *The Long Island Fisherman.* The title of the talk will be *"Survival Or Extinction—Future Management Or Continued Exploitation."* Other speakers will cover fishing techniques and bass legislation.

YOUR HELP THIS YEAR IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER! START THE YEAR OFF WITH THE RIGHT BLANK. WRAP UP THE ONE BELOW!

SAVE OUR STRIPERS, Inc. *1975 Membership Application*

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FRESHWATER FISHING
with Angelo Peluso

FISHING LOGS HELP

Today is the age of the scientific angler, and if those of us that "fish with an angle" are so inclined, we can utilize and benefit from the application of scientific findings and principles. Experimentation has resulted in well-founded theories relating to the many variable factors of fishing, i.e., lure color, water temperature, depth determinations, moon phases, etc. Science has most certainly increased each and every angler's chances for success.

The intent of this article though, is not to expound on science as a fishing tool, but rather to present the fisherman with a very useful and valuable device, somewhat based on science but mostly relating to personal fishing experiences. The time that is spent on lakes, ponds and streams supplies the needed data input and the fishing log becomes the device for storing and subsequently analyzing that data. What follows is a presentation of a "logging" method that has worked for me. It can be modified to suit your particular needs or fishing style.

I first began a serious program of record-keeping about three years ago. My primary concern at that time was to hopefully solve some of the many mysteries surrounding the habits of largemouth bass. I felt the maintaining of a log of my bass fishing trips would enable me to gather and objectively analyze the facts pertaining to my fishing successes and failures. As it turned out, I didn't discover any foolproof system, but I did gain a great deal of knowledge by simply examining the information that I had compiled.

This brings me to what I consider to be the most significant step in establishing an efficient record-keeping system. Above all else, the fisherman should attempt to isolate those factors that have importance in terms of fish habits. Fish, being creatures of habit, follow well-established patterns of behavior. Isolate those factors that cause fish to behave in a certain way and you have half the battle won. Keep a record of the relationship between changes in those factors and fishing success and you have still more of the battle going in your favor (it is impossible to have absolute victory when dealing with things as unpredictable as fish).

Let's now turn our attention to some of the items that I consider worthy of recording (also examine accompanying log exhibits).

1. Fishing Area and Location—This has significance especially if the area in question is being fished for the first time. Be precise when indicating location so that you will be able to return to a given area, should you want to. I generally make it a habit to include a sheet of directions as part of the log information.

2. Date—Since seasonal changes have their effects on fishing, it is a good idea to note the dates of your trips. You might, at some future time, be able to correlate relationships between a particular time of the year and various fishing techniques.

3. Weather—This is that all-important element that is beyond the control of mortal man. I realize that fishermen are a breed that is willing to endure all types of weather conditions for a shot at their favorite gamefish, but keeping a record of those conditions and their effects on your fishing can prove to be very beneficial. I like to record such things as air temperature, wind direction and approximate speed, cloud formations and barometric readings. Are these factors worth logging? Ask any serious black bass fisherman and I am certain that his experiences will show unquestionable relationships.

4. Water Factors—In this category I record:

a) General water appearance-dark, stained, roily, high, low, murky, muddy, etc.

b) Surface conditions- calm, choppy, slight chop, etc.

c) Water temperature- I like to take both surface and sub-surface readings. Also, attempt to record the reading at the depth you are taking fish. Keep in mind that fish do gravitate toward preferred temperature zones; make note of the readings for your successful trips as well as your "skunks".

5. Productive Hours—Record the time that catches are made. With this information you might be able to isolate a pattern for productive periods.

6. Depth—Within this category I include the factors of:

a) Bottom depth
b) Best fishing depth
c) Type of bottom

Depth control plays a vital part in the fish-catching process, so the more facts that you accumulate to it the better off you will be.

7. Diagrams—I would suggest that you make rough sketches of the areas that you have fished and indicate distinguishing features. If an area of a lake has been productive, and if I intend to return, I will always triangulate my position and mark the identifying objects on my diagram.

This system has been of considerable value to me during the three years of record maintenance. Numerous fishing ventures have been turned into fruitful excursions due to the utilization of the recorded data. One instance that immediately comes to mind, that can best illustrate the usefullness of fishing logs, occurred during the past season. On July 12, 1974, I was fishing for bass on Long Island's Forge Pond. The day had not been too successful since only one small bass had fallen prey to my

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plastic worm. At about four o'clock that afternoon I sat back in my boat to ponder the situation and attempt to figure out the fish-catching pattern.

One thing that immediately came to my mind was that certain conditions remained prevalent throughout the day: a slight southeasterly wind, patches of cloud formations, slightly choppy water surface, consistent air temperature (high 70's) and water temperature of 74 degrees at zero to five feet. As I though about these factors it dawned on me that my fishing log was somewhere in my tackle box. Upon locating it, I searched through the pages with the hope of noticing some similarity between these conditions and those experinced on some other day.

Well, to make a long story short, I did find a similarity; on the day of August 18, 1973, I encountered the same situation. While glancing at the log sheet, I noticed that I did take four fish during the early evening hours from a location that I marked "big willow". This spot was familiar to me, but since I had tried it earlier in the day I sort of wrote it off for the remainder of the trip. Now I decided to give it another try. For your information, I proceeded to take five bass from that exact same spot during the same period of time, using the same type of lure that my log had indicated as being successful under similar conditions in the past.

I hope that this example has at least aroused your curiosity regarding the merits of fishing logs. I am a firm and dedicated believer, and now record pertinent facts for every fishing trip that I take. Though we all like to think of ourselves as being able to recall every detail of a successful fishing venture, it is surprising when we realize how little we actually retain. Don't rely totally on memory, keep a log. You'll benefit greatly in the long run.

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SAMPLE LOG SHEETS

TRIP # 5

FISHING AREA Forge Pond

LOCATION L.I. N.Y.

DATE June 11, 1974 WEATHER Clear, Hot - 80's

WIND DIRECTION — SURFACE CALM

WATER CONDITION Stained WATER TEMP Surface - 69-70° 66° @ 5 ft.

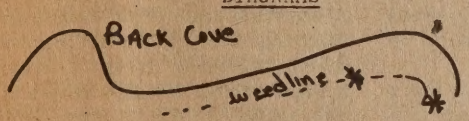
PRODUCTIVE HRS 12:00 - 2:00 PM

BEST DEPTH Shallow BOTTOM DEPTH 2-5 ft.

TYPE OF BOTTOM Weedy # OF FISH 4

SPECIE Bass

DIAGRAMS



COMMENTS

1 bass - 18", 3 1/2 lbs

1 " - 2 lbs, two approx. 1 1/2 lbs.

Largest taken on 5" jointed Rebel while bass chasing baitfish. Other bass taken from small coves, up against weeds. Purple worm.

TRIP # 8

FISHING AREA LAKE RONKONKOMA

LOCATION L.I., N.Y.

DATE JUNE 25, 1973 WEATHER Overcast

WIND DIRECTION Slight SE SURFACE Calm/chop

WATER CONDITION Clouded WATER TEMP 74° @ 15 ft. 72° @ 25 ft.

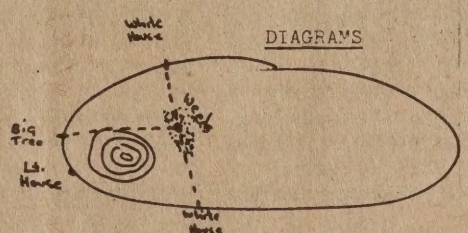
PRODUCTIVE HRS. Sporadic

BEST DEPTH 6 - 10 ft. BOTTOM DEPTH 10 ft.

TYPE OF BOTTOM Weedy # OF FISH 5

SPECIE Largemouth Bass

DIAGRAMS



COMMENTS

Fish caught were small. Fished same pattern as 6/23. Conditions Same. Bass taken on shallow weed structure. Black Plastic Worm

Can A Popper Really "Talk" [Plastic Poppers]

by Jack "The Professor" Frech

Poppers are probably the most commonly-used plugs on the entire Long Island coast. I believe they are also the least understood! The vast majority of those who fish the surf seem to know of but one way to use this most versatile of plugs. Toss it out as far as it will go and jerk it back as fast as possible. Fine! when the fish are on the surface and feeding like there is no tomorrow, but otherwise the chances of taking fish are slim.

Can a popper really talk? Certainly not! but in the hands of those creative surfmen who have the ability to continuously adapt their skills and knowledge to ever-changing conditions, it often appears they do.

Each surfcaster must accept the responsibility for the success which he achieves with the popper he chooses. Often the fish are present, in season. All that must be done is catch them. To score consistently, to pull fish off the bottom or from out of nowhere when conditions are less than ideal, is the mark of the "regular".

Poppers have little built-in action. It is the fisherman's confidence in the plug and the techniques he uses to make it "work" that turns a popper into a fish-catcher. How does the man put the action in the wood?

Most of his success comes from studying, not just looking at, live bait. What does it do? What are the conditions when it races across the current? When does it lie almost motionless down deep in fast-moving water? How does it scatter in a frightened manner when suddenly disturbed? How often does it poke slowly around a rock in search of food? He notices it twitching, darting, wriggling.

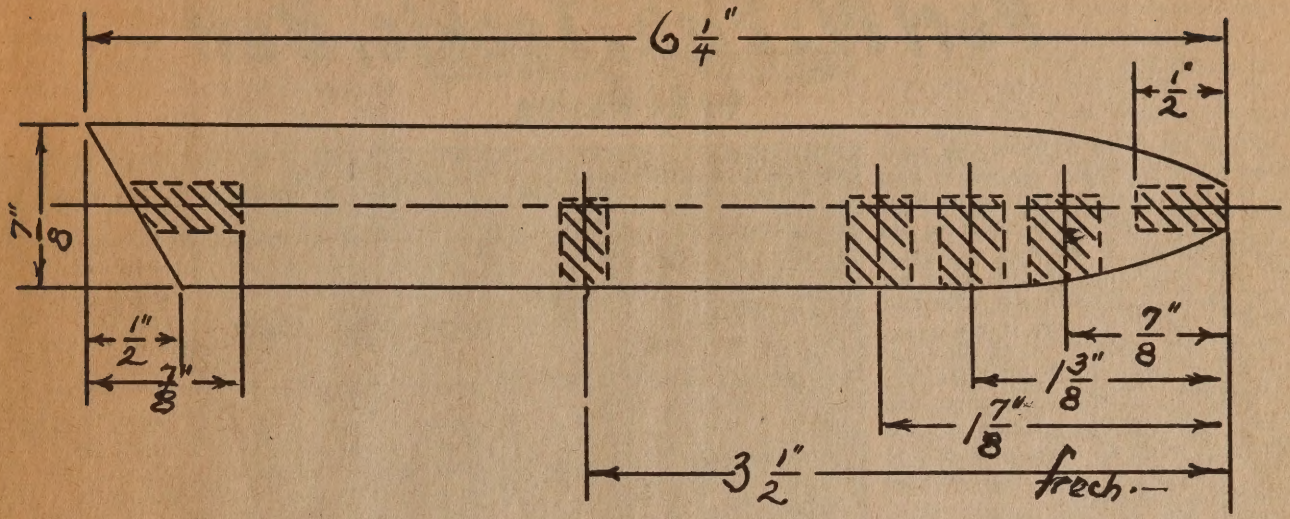
Anyone who has spent sufficient time to note these and other characteristics is far ahead of many who label themselves surf fishermen. He has moved ahead toward the ultimate technical expertise necessary to make the popper "talk."

Those surf fishermen who have watched bait have surely noticed how it streaks away as fast as poosible. This action or the fact that it has aroused a sulking bluefish often calls for its death. Charley Sherry, one of the grand old regulars at Montauk, taught me very graphically one evening that it is sometimes impossible to work a popper too fast. When my left wrist was practically breaking, he would drive me saying, "Faster, faster, faster!" Sure enough, when my maximum of endurance was about reached, just before I was positive my hand would fall off, there it was "bang!" and a bluefish would be on but good. This retrieve calls for no motion except a blurring left hand. The rod must be kept as immobile as possible. The plug must just streak straight in without any deviation or other action.

At other times, what the fish seem to want is a fast retrieve; not the frantic speed of the preceding action but faster than the normal reel and jerk used by most, supplemented by an occasional lightning surface dash. This was the major technique of most of the earlier surfcasters. I have difficulty with it because I'm too accustomed to putting a lot of junk into my action. Actually this retrieve is readily accomplished by rapidly and continuously rotating the left hand plus every once in a while a fast and complete lift of the rod from near water surface to directly overhead. By all means watch the popper on this one. Don't let it break out of the water as in a jump!

Again there are times when a side to side slide, a dancing or twitching action is all that will raise a fish. Conditioning is required to persist with this technique. The men are quickly taking up the slack. As soon most three, full casts. Assuming a surf rod with a long butt, at the end of the cast stick the but behind the calf of your left leg, right hand high on the stick above the reel and left hand quickly taking up the slack. As sson as the slack is out, turn the left hand at an agonizingly slow speed and try to break the stick in half as you vibrate it back and forth with about eight to ten inches of hard movement with your right hand. If you haven't been practicing, you will be soaking with sweat and sucking wind before the plug covers fifty feet. Don't give up! The popper will move toward you ever so slowly. Its action will be frantic or soft according to the length of right hand stroke. Don't watch the plug! Watch behind it for boils. If they stop, get that popper in immediately and cast it back even more quickly. Repeat the action over the area of the boil. You will have that bass—very often a good-sized one—on the second or third trip over the same spot. Small

LONG PLASTIC POPPER



fish seem to rap at the plug on the first trip, but those big ones are lazy and curious—they take time and must be tempted.

Swim a popper? Surely no one believes it can be done! But in a current or a rip, it is possible to imitate somewhat the swimming motion of live bait. I have caught more bluefish and striped bass at Montauk under the fall full moon by "swimming" a white popper at night than with any other single plug. To get the proper action, I cast as far our as possible to hit the deepest water. The forward retrieve must be in operation before the plug hits the water. As soon as the popper is coming and it can be felt on the surface, I start to swim it down. Never just allow the plug to sink. Work it down. This means a slow, slow left hand with no charge of speed. The rod tip moves no more than 6- to 8-inches up and back again. The popper works slowly in the current, similar to the way bait moves as it faces speeding water. Continually, while moving ahead, the plug sinks ever so slowly toward bottom. When the fisherman can't stand the suspense any longer and he fears a hang-up, he must jazz up the left hand and bust that plug toward the surface with a long fast lift of the rod tip. For good measure, a second lift can be added, if the popper is way out. If no action, repeat the sequence. Quite often the hit that comes about half way through the lift will almost break the fisherman's right arm. Don't worry about hooking these fish. When they hit, you have them.

Finally, here's another technique which seems to work very well with heavy plastic poppers. When the fish are way out and not hitting a very fast or a jerky retrieve, try one that alternatingly moves the plug fast for about ten feet, then tempt the fish with a slow down. By developing a rhythm with left hand action and a slowly undulating action of the rod tip, the lure will move toward shore in along rising and falling motion.

These are but a few of the retrieves possible with a popper. One must practice and practice, improvise and create. Don't forever try to catch fish. Practice lure handling. The difference between one man's technique and another's is often so infinitesimal that only the fish seem to note the difference. With all of the innovation and creativity, and with all of the ability to consider the variables, there is one more essential item. The fisherman must know that if there is one fish out there he will be the one to catch it.

PATTERN LAYOUT
Large Popper

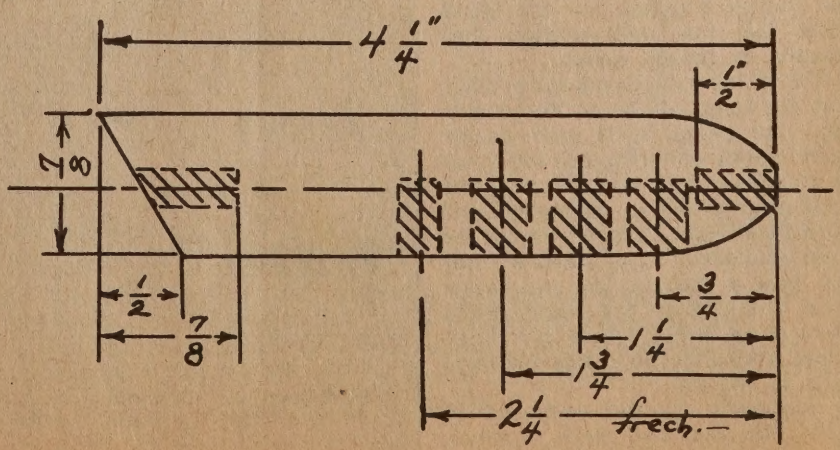
As a regular part of my daytime artillery, I carry two different sizes of plastic poppers made of 7/8-inch diameter acrylic plastic rod. Generally this material is available in hobby shops. I purchase mine from Frank Products Corp., 163 Eileen Way, Syosset, New York. Last purchase was about 50 cents a foot.

The details and the sequence of construction for this plug are the same as for the "W-Y" with a few exceptions:

1. I drill all the holes for hangers and weights before shaping the tail. Caution! if using a drill press to drill the holes, use a worn drill and work quickly. A slow cut with a sharp drill seems to polish the inside of the hole

(*Continued on page* **20.**)

SHORT PLASTIC POPPER



The Other End of Long Island

Part IV: Fish, Tackle, Bait

by Ed Haring

Within reach of a thirty-five cent token there are many places to fish and a large variety of fish to be had. What makes fishing a sport is its unpredicability. If we had a crystal ball that would tell exactly what we could catch, at a particular time and place, it would lose its fascination.

Fish, like people, move around, stop eating when their bellies are full, and do things no one can account for. Tides, temperature, phases of the moon and wind all have an effect. A short interval of time can reverse conditions completely.

Of the fish to be caught in local waters probably the flounder, blackfish, eels, snappers, whiting and striped bass are the most likely to show in their seasons. Herring, fluke, porgies, seabass, lafayettes and weaks are making a comeback after being AWOL for varying periods. Blues have been pretty consistent in recent years, but it wasn't too long ago they were as rare as teeth in a chicken. Where were the tinker mackerel, kings, blowfish, and butter fish for the past few seasons? It could be that some polutants drive them off, but more than likely they just come and go in cycles.

For the novice fishing local waters, the following guide may prove to be helpful:

The seasons are based on weather conditions rather than the calendar—which fish do not read. Late spring weather means a later start. A warm day in February, between snow storms, does not signify spring, no more than a chill wind in early fall is a herald of winter. Also bear in mind that this is a guide, not the Bible. Some fish may well overlap their seasons by several weeks.

Most of the fish you are apt to catch from the shore will be on the smaller side; the bigger ones seek deeper water. Gently unhook those too small for your table and return them to the water as carefully as possible. Don't throw them like a baseball. Afford the same treatment to bait stealers; they also play a part in the underwater world. There are two species you **must return** or be faced with a stiff fine: **striped bass** under 16 inches and **fluke** under 14 inches.

I purposely avoided reference to hooks, the sizes and types of which can be confusing. Stick to the smaller

Species	Season	Bait	Tackle	Remarks
Flounder	Spring Fall	Worms or clams	Light	Muddy bottom best.
Fluke	Summer	Shiners, squid, killies, strip of fish.	Light to medium	Sandy Bottom. Cast and retreive bait slowly.
Blackfish	Spring Fall	Fiddlers, piece of green crab, clams	Medium	Close to rocks, bridge supports and pier piling.
Weaks	Spring Summer Fall	Worms, squid & shrimp & lures.	Light	Strong tidal rips.
Porgies, Sea Bass Lafayettes	Summer	Worms, clam, squid.	Light	Close to rocks, bridge and pier piling.
Bluefish	Summer Fall	Chunk of oily fish Most any lure.	Medium & surf	Schools may turn up anywhere. Good surf fish.
Striped Bass	Spring Summer Fall	Variety of baits and lures.	Medium & surf	Anywhere, early, AM, sundown & night best.
Herring	Winter	Shiners or chrome jigs.	Light	Large schools roam anywhere.
Snappers	Summer Fall	Shiners, killies.	Light	A tasty favorite in large roving schools.
Whiting	Cold Winter	Shiners, chrome jigs.	Light to surf	Surf or Coney Island at night.

ones; they will hook a larger fish, too, while a hook too large will miss their smaller brethren. It is wise to carry several sinkers of varying weights and use the lightest to hold bottom. Tidal conditions may make occasional changes desirable.

Hoping that a word to the wise will be sufficient, you will find that dealing with a local tackle shop saves you money in the long run. He can best advise you on hook sizes, bait and where to fish. On the larger items such as rods and reels, give plenty of thought to where and how you prefer to fish. Once you decide, he can help in selecting a balanced outfit that will add more pleasure to your sport. Don't be afraid to ask questions; his business depends on satisfied customers. You will find many reliable dealers listed for the area in this magazine.

For the neophyte surf caster, I offer this advice: spend a couple of days talking to the veterans before you start investing your money. There are some good-looking, well-advertised reels that the experinced man would not be caught dead with, while one you might not have heard of before performs excellently. Department stores may push the former, while a good tackle dealer may dissuade you.

The length of rods is controversial, even among the old-timers. A longer rod should give you more distance, but its additional weight will tire you faster. A stiffer rod may handle heavy lures and sinkers, but do a deplorable job when the fish are in close and hitting lighter lures. No matter which way you go, there will be times you wished you had chosen the other way. Purchase the rod and reel at the same shop to assure balance.

If you decide to use lures over bait, a lure must be cast and retreived to be effective. Speeds vary, but it won't work if you toss it out and let it lay. Don't use sinkers unless the maker says so. You may cast further into the wind, but the odds against you are tremendous. No, you don't have to put bait on each hook, either. To most this will seem elementary, yet each year I see them happen.

One final word on tackle. The fish are completely unaware of the rod and reel you are using. What does matter is a carefully-baited hook or well-presented lure. The equipment you are holding can increase your enjoyment and ensure landing the fish. Proper care increases its lifespan. If your tackle is old or does not meet up to specifications, it does not mean you can't enjoy it and catch as many as the fellow with a spanking new outfit. Even a handline is fun. The important thing is to fish and enjoy all its side benefits.

BOATING COURSE

U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 22-2 of Northport will conduct a seven-lesson sailboat course. Registration and the first lesson will be held at Northport Jr. H.S. on Laurel Avenue in Northport. Registration will begin at 7:30 p.m. on 24 Feb., 1975 in the cafeteria. For further information call 516-261-3662.

BASS AND BLUEFISH ASSOC. OF LONG ISLAND

Awards will be distributed at the annual dinner of the BBALI in March.

Three of these awards will go to Frank Kavanagh, the club's President and most persistant fisherman: Striped Bass - 47 lbs. 3 oz.; Bluefish - 14 lbs. 10 oz.; Weakfish - 9 lbs. 8 oz. The blackfish award will go to Charles DeMarco: Blackfish - 6 lbs. 14 oz.

In addition, the spring derby was won by Harry Loud, and the summer derby by Charles DeMarco.

Trophys will also be awarded to junior members of the club, for outstanding catches in their class.

CLUB NEWS

TOURNAMENT ANGLERS

The annual Dinner and Dance of the TOURNAMENT ANGLERS was held at the Salty Bay Yacht Club, on February 8, 1975. Awards were given to the following: Albacore (true), 33 lbs., Artie Nelson; Tie, Mike McVeigh; Albacore (false), 17 lbs., Joe Masone; Blue Fish, 20 lbs. 8 oz., Joe Carter; Cod, 48 lbs. 8 oz., Ben Schulman; Bluefin Tna (trolled) 46 lbs. 4 oz., Ben Schulman; Yellowfin Tuna, 119 lbs., Julie Federocko; Skipjack, 11 lbs., Harold Erdrich; Striped Bass, 42 lbs. 10 oz., Frank Signoriello; Pollack, 29 lbs. 8 oz., Joe Masone; Weak fish, 7 lbs. 14 oz., Joe Carter; Tile fish, 38 lbs. 8 oz., Joe Carter; Mako Shark, 237 lbs. Ben Schulman; Dusky shark, 166 lbs., Joe Masone; Blue shark, 104 lbs, Joe Masone; Hammerhead shark, 154 lbs., Jerry Levine.

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Tip of the Week

Cut opening large enough for hand to remove bait.

G.V.

BELT BAIT HOLDER

Need a convenient bait holder for surf fishing with fresh-cut bait? Try a large, jug-type plastic bottle with a hole cut large enough for your hand to pass through on the side opposite the handle. It gets the job done and can be easily carried or worn by slipping your belt through the handle.

Submitted by Will Daskal

One of the Best Things About Fishing is Eating Fish

by Whiting Evans

I learned the other night, on a TV documentary concerning the growth of the planet Earth, that we human beings are actually descended—through hundreds of millions of years—from creatures which lived in the ocean. Through a very gradual process of evolution we finally became what we are. As for myself, I'm almost sure that I was born with gills, so much do I like everything which pertains to anything piscatorial. I love to look at fish in a tank; I love to fish for fish - especially the salt water variety - whether it be flounders or swordfish; and, the Lord knows, I love to eat fish.

Some good friends of mine—Japanese friends—go into ecstasies about certain kinds of raw fish, but they're not for me! I like my fish cooked and properly flavored and, having had many years experience in the culinary arts, I figured that maybe you'd like to try some of the recipes which I have used time and again.

Let's first see how we can use that almost universal inhabitor of the colder waters—the codfish. I'm sure you've eaten the flesh of this critter in codfish cakes; boiled and covered with a cream sauce over which grated hard-boiled eggs and chopped parsely have served as ornamentaion; or dipped in beaten eggs followed by a cover of bread crumbs and fried in either deep fat or sauteed in butter. These methods of cooking cod are the best known and surely have their place, BUT, if these are the only ways you've eaten this versatile fish you haven't really lived!

For example: first we go in one of the great party boats available out of any of our northeastern ports. We get a cod weighing about five or six pounds. (Of course, your wife could g out and buy one in a fish market but, to me at least, a "boughten fish" never tastes as good to me as one I've caught myself.) Next, you fillet your cod and of course remove the skin. You've now got enough to feed about four people with your two fillets.

Now take a good-sized skillet (frying pan) and in it melt a piece of butter the size of an egg. Finely-chop half a Bermuda onion and mix it with the butter until the pieces of onion are browned. Add to this about a level teaspoon of salt, some black pepper, about a level tablespoon of paprika and three or four shakes of cayenne (red) pepper. Mix thoroughly. Now, cut each of your fillets in half and lay these four pieces over the butter and onions. Then cover the fillets with a tart white wine—preferably Chablis. (The domestic variety of Chablis serves perfectly for this use and it is inexpensive.) Now place a cover over the skillet and boil the fish for about five minutes. By so doing you are infiltrating the fish with the wine and spices.

In a separate bowl mix half a can of evaporated milk with a heaping tablespoon of flour. (If you really want to put on the dog you could use an equivalent amount of heavy cream into which you've beaten 4 egg yolks; but the evap milk and flour do a pretty good job!) At this point, if you're not ready to serve your guests you can heat it up again in 5 or 10 minutes it'll be all done.

First, using a large spatula, remove the cooked cod from the skillet and place the fillets on a platter. Then add the evaporated milk and flour mixture to the wine and onions in the skillet and, over a low flame, heat and stir constantly. In a very short time the mixture will thicken and you'll pour it over the cod fillets. If you wish to do so, you can serve a glass of Chablis to everyone. Then, toast "Seventh Heaven"!

The nice thing about this recipe is that you need not use cod as the fish. Flounder, fluke, or shrimp are equally delectable when cooked this way. Never! but never! use bluefish, striped bass or mackerel. Oily fish are not meant to be pampered! Which you'd soon find out!

I've already mentioned "codfish cakes". You can buy these ready for the fry pan in almost any delicatessen, or they are available in cans. All you have to do is form them into cakes and then fry. These cakes are very nice but—they can be made to taste "out of this world".

In the late fall, when the cod are really out there hungry for your clump of skimmer clam, I always take three or four good-sized cod and fillet them. I put these fillets in a large stone crock, alternating each layer with plenty of Kosher salt. It doesn't take very long for this salt to dehydrate the flesh until you find that the fillets are covered with water—heavy brine These pieces of baccala will keep for months without refrigeration.

Now comes the time when you want to make some codfish cakes a la supreme. It's usually best to take a given amount—say, a pound or two depending on how many persons will be joining you in your repast—from the crock at nighttime and soak the salted fillet in fresh water overnight. Then, when you're ready to make the cakes, peel some raw potatoes weighing about the same as the codfish. Put both into a pot and cover with fresh water, boil until the potatoes are done. Pour off the water and, while the cod and taters are still hot, add some black pepper and a small amount of milk. Beat the contents of the pot with an electric mixer until the tubers and cod are well-mixed. Add the yolks of three eggs and blend them in. When this is done allow the mixture to cool until lukewarm and then fold in the beaten whites of the eggs. The consistency of the mix should now be somewhat like lightly-beaten mashed potatoes.

Into another pot pour a goodly amount of corn oil and bring this to that amount of heat which will brown a piece of bread in a short time. Now, using a tablespoon, scoop up a ball of the mixture just prepared and drop itno the hot fat. Do the same thing a half-dozen times, and every so often turn the balls in the fat until each one is golden brown. As you remove them, place them onto some brown wrapping paper to absorb the grease. I don't need to tell you what to do next but, as the saying goes, "Eat them in good health—and enjoy!"

Next time I'll tell you how to make a delicious lobster, shrimp or fish Neuberg!

HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO

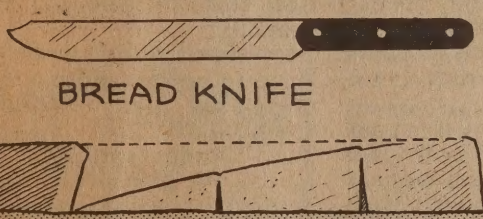
BY FRED GUARDINEER

AN IGLOO, OR ESKIMO SNOWHOUSE MIGHT COME IN HANDY SOMETIME WHEN ICE FISHING OR IF STRANDED IN THE SNOW.

THE SECRET IS TO CUT *"PACKED"* SNOW BLOCKS, LAY THEM IN A CIRCLE, ONE ON TOP OF THE OTHER, SO THAT THEY *SPIRAL* UP IN LAYERS. *COHESION* IS THE *FORCE OF ATTRACTION* THAT HOLDS PARTICLES TOGETHER IN A MASS... *"PACKS"* A SNOWBALL... LET'S YOU BUILD A SNOWHOUSE.

A *"WINDOW"* OF THIN ICE LETS IN LIGHT.

KEEPS WARM AT 60° F. INSIDE EVEN IF IT'S 50° *BELOW* OUTSIDE!

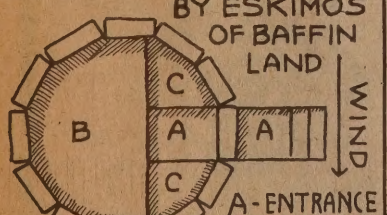


CUT BLOCKS 3' LONG, 1½' WIDE, 6" THICK. FIRST LAYER IS SET LEANING INWARD AND THEN *CUT DOWN* TO FORM INCLINED PLANE. BLOCKS IN SECOND TIER ARE SUPPORTED BOTTOM AND SIDE BY BLOCKS LAID BEFORE.

ONLY TRICK IS TO SHAVE FAR CORNER OF EACH BLOCK SO IT *"SETTLES"* AND PACKS FIRMLY TO BLOCK BELOW. AS WALLS *SPIRAL* UP, THEY LEAN *INWARD* HELD BY FORCE OF COHESION. LAST, FIT TOP *"KING BLOCK"*, CUT ENTRANCE.

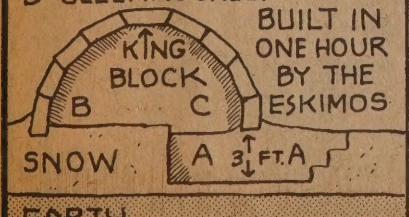
IGLOO GROUND PLAN

BY ESKIMOS OF BAFFIN LAND



A - ENTRANCE
C - STORAGE
B - SLEEPING SHELF

BUILT IN ONE HOUR BY THE ESKIMOS



IGLOOS AS USED BY ESKIMOS

SNOW CHIMNEY
TIN STOVEPIPE USED SPARINGLY - IT CAN MELT THE ROOF!
CLOTHES DRYING
SKIN DRYING
TOOLS, SPEARS, ETC. ARE STUCK IN SIDES OF IGLOO
SCOOP TO CLEAR ICE FROM FISHING HOLES
ICE FISHING HAND LINE
SNOW SHOVEL

NEW YORK FORMS BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION

MONTGOMERY, ALA.—One of the most significant steps in the history of the fight to preserve and protect the bass fishing waters of the state of New York was taken here on November 10, 1974 with the formal organization of the New York BASS Chapter Federation of BASS chapters.

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, (BASS), headquartered here, sponsored the organization which saw the appointment of six New Yorkers to the founding board of directors, the adoption of by-laws and standing rules, and a declaration of goals.

The original board consisted of Howard Maslow, Barry Kawalick, Earl Williams, Earl Glasshagel, Edmund J. DiStefano, Jr. & Russell Oakes. Earl Glasshagel of Long Island, New York is one of the original board members and is President of the Federation. The Vice-President is Ed DiStefano, Jr., a departmental technician from Staatsburg, New York. The office of Secretary is filled by Jonathan G. Blattmachr, a lawyer from Garden City, New York. Russell Oakes, Tournament Director is from Syracuse, New York. The remaining board members at present are: Barry Kawalick, Bronx, New York; Earl Williams, West Seneca, New York.

The basic purpose of the organization is to provide a framework within which New York bass anglers can quickly and effectively respond to threats to the quality of New York bass waters. It plans to work closely with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the state legislature to ensure the future of bass fishing within the state.

There are presently 10 BASS chapters in New York eligible to affiliate with the state federation, and 104 New Yorkers are members of the 185,000 member national organization.

Ray Scott, National President of BASS, said, "We fully expect the New York BASS Chapter Federation to become the first line of defense against water pollution, channelization, and other threats of quality water in the state of New York. We have selected six of the finest sportsmen in the state to found this organization, and we know they are capable of meeting the challenges that will face them."

Scott, incidentally, has filled more than 2500 anti-pollution suits in various federal courts, against some of the nation's largest industries.

The New York BASS Chapter Federation also is responsible for organizing an annual "BASS Youth Week" to introduce youngsters to the sheer enjoyment—and the responsibilities—of bass fishing.

It will also conduct its first State Championship Tournament, tentatively scheduled for July 5 and 6, 1975, on Oneida Lake. Tournament Director Russell Oakes is handling the details.

The federation will annually conduct a New York BASS Chapter State Championship, in which the six best anglers from each of the affiliated chapters will compete for the state championship trophy and the right to represent New York in a National Team Championship Tournament, similar to the Bass Masters Classic for professional anglers.

The major difference between the Classic and the Team Championship will be that all cash awards (to be provided by Bass Headquarters) will go back to the winning state federations, earmarked for environmental projects.

"It will be a case of men fishing in competition, not for money, but for honor," Scott said. "The money that would normally go into the pockets of the winners will instead go into a state environmental protection fund. The entire state of New York will benefit from the efforts of our competitive anglers.

There will also be further organizational work done in New York to select and organize environmental, youth, and tournament committees.

"We are definitely a special interest group," Scott said, "But, fortunately, our special interests—clean water and a respect for the natural environment—coincide with the general interests of 99 percent of the people of New York. I'm sure we'll have their support."

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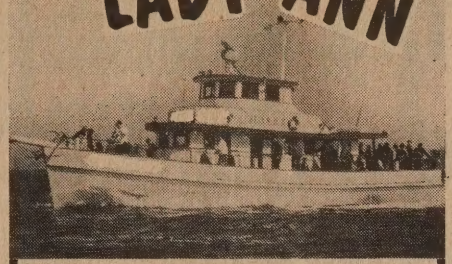

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

NOTE: Virtually all boats sailing for cod reported an unusual and frustrating fishing situation over the weekend—the codfish could be seen on the fish recorders stacked up on the bottom, but very few would even look at a bait. This situation was found in all waters stretching from Montauk to Sheepshead Bay, leading many captains to believe that the two conditions of lack of current and virtually no wind to be responsible. When these conditions change we may see some of the best cod action of the season.

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported very good cod fishing over the weekend. The Apple Tree Grounds south of Block Island has been the hot spot. On Saturday 600 fish came aboard and on Sunday 400. The cod are small, averaging 6-12 lbs. with the pool fish running about 30. Up to fifty large blackfish are mixed in the catch daily.

Captain Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen II** said that fishing was slow over the weekend. The weather was good but the fish just didn't cooperate even though plenty of fish were seen on the machine. The Peconic Queen moved often, picking four to five cod from each spot. Average fish was 8-15 lbs. and the pool fish were in the 25-30 lbs. range.

CAPTREE

Bob Frank of the **Speedy V** reported a slow and aggravating weekend. Fish were all over the place and showed thick on the recorder but just weren't biting. The Speedy would drop her lines right on top of a good reading, pull up 6-12 cod and then nothing. There was absolutely no tide or wind and you could hold bottom with a five ounce sinker. Fish are in thick in 90-130 feet of water. High hook on Wednesday was 19 cod, on Saturday 11, and on Sunday it was seven. Average size was 7-10 lbs. and the pool fish runs close to 30 lbs. If these fish ever decide to start biting the fishing could turn into a bonanza over night.

Captain Ben Litwin reported very good fishing on Saturday and not-so-good fishing on Sunday. High hook on Saturday was 19 cod but on Sunday 50 people might have had 50 fish. Fishing is southeast of Fire Island Lighthouse in 140 feet of water.

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FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reported a fantastic Friday when 14 fares took 120 cod. It slowed up considerably on Saturday when less than 100 fish were taken for more people and completely died on Sunday when only 50 fish were taken. Richie also reported non-biting fish stacked up on the recorder. The Starstream II has been fishing 1 hour and 20 minutes east/southeast of Jones Inlet in 130 feet of water. Captain Kessinger said that the Starstream will stick with the cod until the blackfish arrive in April.

Captains Marty Dombrowski and Mike Fay of the **Empire**, proudly announce the arrival of a second boat, a roomy, 32 passenger, 40', diese powered beauty, aptly named the **Empire II**. Starting now, the **Empire Fleet** is ready to serve you. See ad for details and watch for their special sailings.

Capt. "Spider" Schmidt of the **Aloma II** reports that he had a great day Sunday flounder-wise. Fishing inside, co-captain John Grimley put fares over an area full of hungry spring flounder, ½-1½ lbs. hungry for worms. Low man had 12 flatties. Yep—springs here!

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Fred Ardolino of the **Amberjack IV** said that the weather was excellent and 44 people showed up for the special cod trip on Saturday The cod didn't cooperate however, as in other ports, and only 70 fish were taken. The Amberjack IV will try another special cod trip this Saturday leaving at 5:30 a.m. Call Fred for further details at 212-646-8083. Fred said that the boats going out for whiting are slaughtering them.

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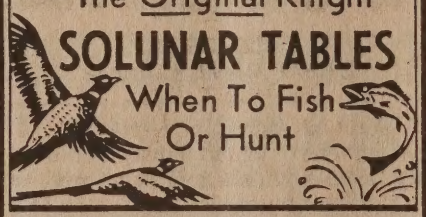

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	11:35	5:40	11:50	6:10
Fri.	—	6:35	12:25	7:05
Sat.	12:45	7:20	1:20	7:55
Sun.	1:30	8:25	2:10	8:50
Mon.	2:35	9:15	3:05	9:45
Tues.	3:25	10:10	4:00	10:35
Wed.	4:20	11:00	4:50	11:30
Thurs.	5:10	11:55	5:45	—

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PLASTIC PLUGS

(*Continued from page 11.*)

and a quick cut tends to score it. The only epoxied hook hanger which I have set and which pulled out came out of a hole so smooth it shone on the inside.

2. The tail is always shaped by grinding off the excess with a sanding disc or a coarse file.

3. A dip in boiled linseed oil is unnecessary.

4. The surface of the plug must be rubbed with sandpaper to insure a good paint bond.

Artie Glass, who, before his back went bad on him, was one of the very best beach casters in the Gilgo to Democrat area, used to say these were the best of the bluefish plugs. In his hands this plug can split a thirty-mile wind with practically no loss in distance.

SKETCH—Short Popper

The smaller of these is for those times when the fish are one hundred feet or more out and only want a small lure. This situation exists more often than most fishermen realize. This popper must always wear a leader—I prefer Steelon because there is a less shine—six or eight inches long on its nose. When a bluefish hits it he generally engulfs the entire plug.

The plugs described are not original nor are they, at the same time, identical to any commercial lures. Normally, the plugs used by thinking surfcasters are not original. They are the result of countless experiments and tinkering. The answers to questions such as, "...what would happen if this face angle were altered?" or "...would the action be different if the weight were moved?"

The next ruckus-raising surface commotion plug to be detailed in this series will be an adaption of a surf fisherman's personal plug that has only a far-fetched relationship to any commercial plug.

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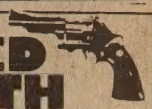

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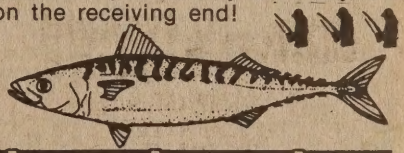
WHAT'S IN A FISHERMAN?

(*Continued from page 5.*)

have—and should have—been gaffed. Poor judgment!

Well, enough of this profound philosophy. I'm sure it will go a long way to solve the problems of the world. But I enjoyed it. One thing's for sure, no matter what we say: chances are that you'll meet at lot more "hooples" on the beach then you will pros, so watch out for their mistakes because if you don't, you'll likely to be on the receiving end!



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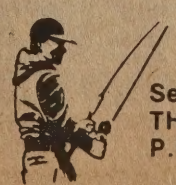

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TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
2/20 THURSDAY	1:44	2:25	3:38	4:17	5:05	5:42	5:37	6:15
2/21 FRIDAY	2:57	3:37	4:40	5:19	6:09	6:49	6:40	7:17
2/22 SATURDAY	4:07	4:46	5:40	6:17	7:20	8:03	7:42	8:15
2/23 SUNDAY	6:10	6:44	7:36	8:08	9:29	10:11	9:39	10:11
2/24 MONDAY	7:05	7:36	8:28	8:58	10:32	11:07	10:32	11:01
2/25 TUESDAY	7:56	8:25	9:22	9:48	11:28	11:57	11:23	11:49
2/26 WEDNESDAY	8:44	9:12	10:12	10:38	—	12:20	—	12:14
2/27 THURSDAY	9:32	10:01	11:04	11:29	12:46	1:10	12:38	1:03
	10:23	10:52	11:54	—	1:33	1:58	1:25	1:52

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
(Inlet.Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0 00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

PHASES OF THE MOON

2/11	2/19	2/25	2/3
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

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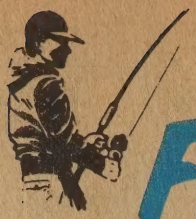
(100 yds. W. of Wellwood Ave.)



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This February *The Long Island Fisherman* is launching a new and unprecedented program for the benefit of our subscribers. The *Fisherman's Package* will contain hundreds of dollars in discounts on merchandise and services being made available *only* to L.I.F. subscribers. Each subscriber will also receive a "Subscriber Club Card" with his name on it entitling him to reduced rates on participating party boats, rowboat rentals, marine electronics and fishing tackle. ONLY SUBSCRIBERS WILL RECEIVE THE "FISHERMAN'S PACKAGE," so subscribe *today* or make sure you renew your present subscription on time.

Look at a few of the items you will receive in "The Fisherman's Package":

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This membership card will have your name and address stamped on the back to identify you as an L.I.F. subscriber to advertisers offering special discounts to L.I.F. Subscriber Club members.

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This 6 X 9 inch 16-page booklet will fit easily in the bottom of your tackle box or glove compartment on a boat. It contains the tide tables for 1975 as well as vital info such as sunrise, sunset, phases of the moon, moonrise, moonset.

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Would you believe there are more than 100 launching ramps on Long Island. They're all listed in this pamphlet, including info like type of ramp, length, launching fees, resident requirements (if any), telephone number, addresses and their locations pinpointed on a 10 X 16 inch map of Long Island.

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Use L.I.F. "Funny Money" for big savings on books, fillet knives, merchandise and services. Each package contains $23 of Funny Money.

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Submit a photo of your catch for possible publication in The Long Island Fisherman using this special blank.

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Receive a 10% discount at a popular motel in Montauk that caters to fisherman by using this L.I.F. Discount Coupon.